



Embassy of the United States of America
Port Louis, Mauritius
PRESS RELEASE

Invest in USA

Port Louis, July 9, 2013: The U.S. Embassy organized today July 9, 2013, a workshop on the theme "Invest in USA" at the Labourdonnais Waterfront Hotel, in Port Louis. The workshop was led by Mr. Aaron Brickman, Acting Executive Director, Select USA program, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington D.C. Mr. Brickman briefed the Mauritian business community on the investment climate in the United States, including investment opportunities and incentives. In the past, there may have been a general impression that the U.S. market is *"too far away, too big and too complex"* for Mauritian investors. One workshop objective is to dispel this misconception and provide useful information on investment trends and recent investments made by businesses from various countries in the United States. U.S. Ambassador Shari Villarosa addressed the participants during the opening ceremony.

The United States and Mauritius signed a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) in 2006 to strengthen and expand trade and investment relations between the two countries. But as Ambassador Villarosa said to the participants in the workshop: *"So far, collaboration between our two governments has focused on ways to expand trade, primarily through the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). This workshop provides an opportunity to explore the possibilities of expanding investment relations between our two countries"*. Workshop participants discussed U.S. investment opportunities and how Mauritians may take advantage of these opportunities.

According to statistics, some 60 Mauritian businesses have invested in 28 countries, mainly in Africa and South East Asia. The U.S. Embassy in Mauritius is committed to increasing the availability of information about business and investment opportunities in the United States, according to Ambassador Villarosa. With a land area that is the third largest in the world and blessed with abundant resources, a varied geography, and several climate zones, the United States offers a broad range of possibilities for investment.

The U.S. attracted about \$225 billion in foreign investment in 2011. The United States has a Gross Domestic Product of over \$15 trillion dollars. It has a prosperous and open consumer market of over 310 million Americans, in addition to providing access to about 415 million more customers via free trade agreements for goods and services produced in the United States. By investing in the United States, Mauritian businesses can gain access to a total market of $\frac{3}{4}$ of a billion consumers. The Governments of Mauritius and the United States expect to shortly conclude negotiations on a Bilateral Investment Treaty which will provide enhanced protection and encouragement to investments between both countries.

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Select USA will host an Investment Summit in Washington, D.C. from October 31-November 1, 2013. The Summit will help companies to more effectively identify business opportunities in the United States, connect with U.S. partners and federal, state, and local economic development organizations to encourage investment in the United States.

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